

## **Study of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)**

The Urban Institute, in conjunction with NORC of the University of Chicago and Support Services International, Inc. (SSI), has been awarded a contract from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to conduct a national study of FDPIR and its participants. The last nationally representative study was completed in 1990. Since then, significant changes have occurred in FDPIR, including changes to eligibility rules, foods offered, and food delivery options. This study is needed to help FNS make decisions regarding program administration and identify ways to make the program more beneficial to participants. The study's objectives include, but are not limited to:

- Obtain an updated demographic profile of participants,
- Explore reasons for the decline in FDPIR participation,
- Examine food package distribution approaches and other key aspects of FDPIR operations,
- Learn about FDPIR's contribution to participants' food supply, and
- Learn about participant satisfaction with the program.

The study began in October 2011 and will be conducted over a 3-year period. Data collection activities will include case record reviews, participant surveys, and site visits. Site visits will consist of staff interviews, discussion groups with participants and non-participants, and tours of facilities. To make the study as representative as possible, ITOs and/or state agencies in different regions and with varying levels of program participation will be asked to participate, including larger participating FDPIR ITOs and/or State agencies such as the Navajo Nation and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

Comments/questions post-call(s) may be emailed to [TribalAffairs@fns.usda.gov](mailto:TribalAffairs@fns.usda.gov).